

From: Swapan Gupta
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

We the undersigned would like to submit our comments on the Microsoft Settlement before the Antitrust Division. We are displeased to note that much effort has been expended by the government to listen to envious competitors, who unable to compete in the open market, attack a productive company so that its innovative ways can be hindered. We have been using Microsoft products for over a decade and have never had any complaints about their performance. Over the years their products have kept improving. We are therefore opposed to any settlement, in which the company which has become successful by dint of innovation, is penalized for being too successful. We would also like to state for the record that as free individuals, participating in the marketplace, we have chosen Microsoft products without coercion. Therefore we think that it is not the duty of the Government to decide or restrict the marketing of Microsoft's products at whatever price the market will bear. Also we think that as free individuals we have an inalienable right to purchase and keep on our computers software of our choice without government interference. In other words, the government should not violate our personal liberties in the realm of what we can buy and keep in our computer. Since the business of Microsoft is producing software, we fail to see how it is a threat to anyone. A free market, in essence requires that a company be productive and offer a better product at the lowest price. Microsoft has been able to do this-- a testament to its success.

One important point to note here is that Microsoft has been brought to court by its competitors, who when unsuccessful in the open market, sought to use government force to not only shackle but also to set the terms by which businesses in future must compete in the market place. Failed businesses must not be allowed to set the terms of the operation of the market place. Penalizing successful businesses can only have a chilling effect on future iconoclastic businessmen and industrialists from trying to be innovative if they conclude that the price of success is the breakup of a company and suffering long drawn out court battles and fines and unreasonable penalties. The government should foster an environment whereby any American entrepreneur with a new idea can start a business by upsetting (if required, just as Henry Ford upset the horse and buggy industry, or what Edison's invention of the light bulb did to the candle makers) current businesses and starting a new field of production just as the computer industry replaced and automated many labor intensive functions of U. S. industry. After all a business has a right to its own property and it is the constitutional duty of the government to secure and protect those rights.

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